



SPRING 2019

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

PAGELS ACCEPTS CALL

Pastor Steven Pagels has accepted the call to be the next professor of Systematic Theology and Christian Education.

A 1999 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, he was assigned to St. John, Wauwatosa, Wis., where he served as the outreach pastor. In 2012, he took a call to St. Matthew's, Oconomowoc, Wis. He serves on the national board of Christian Life Resources and has consulted with congregations working with the WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling.

He and his wife, Shannon, have two daughters, Claire and Greta.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9-17: Spring Break

April 18-23: Easter Break

April 28: Legacy Society Dinner

April 28: Bethel Balge Piano Recital

May 4: Seminary Scurry

May 17: No school

May 23: Call Day and Graduation Concert

May 24: Graduation

MISSION AND MINISTRY HELD

From February 5-7, students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary participated in Mission & Ministry, an annual three-day event organized by the students. Under the theme "Work for the Harvest," each day featured a worship service, keynote address, and an update from WELS administration. In addition, to give these future pastors a cross-section of experiences they may face in ministry, twenty-four breakout sessions were offered in specific topics. These sessions included discussions on personal evangelism, cultivating a caring congregation, urban ministry, planting churches in rural areas, 125 years of ministry to the Apaches, and mission opportunities in Africa, Latin America, and Vietnam.

Also, to see what synodical resources are available to congregations, WELS organizations set up displays to share information about their work in God's kingdom.

"Mission and Ministry refocuses us. It takes us away from our daily routine and reminds us why we study every day. The stories presenters share give us a glimpse of what it will be like to work together with them in God's harvest field," says Senior Andrew Nemmers, one of the event organizers. "Especially in the middle of a long winter, it's always helpful to have that reminder that there is a light at the end of the long tunnel of training for pastoral ministry."



PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE UPDATE

JOSHUA BAION: My name is Joshua Henry Baion, servant of the Lord, Pastor of Community Deliverance Church. I was born in Tanahun, Kailahun district of Sierra Leone, West Africa. I moved to the States in 1991 and was called into ministry in 1994. I attended the Evangelical Training Seminary and was ordained in June of 2008.

My mother came from a Methodist and Pentecostal background. She taught me the Word of God. She passed away almost two years ago. Shortly after, my sisters decided they were older and would lead the church even though I had been called upon to lead.

This brought confusion in the church that led to a split. With no place to worship, my wife and two other members went with me to the Eagan Civic Arena, where we were secured one of their halls for weekly worship.

After several months, we sought a more suitable place for worship. In the winter of 2017, we were driving down the road, and saw the sign for Crown of Life. We went into the building to speak with the pastor. Pastor Pudlo was very gracious. We explained our mission and our desire to possibly worship in their facility. He rightly told me that sharing the facility was not a matter of money, but about having a shared belief about our Savior.

We went through a Bible Information Course to make sure our beliefs were in line with Crown of Life. After finishing the course, we were welcomed by him, the elders, and the congregation with open arms. We also began the PSI courses. We have covered the courses on Interpretation, the Gospels, and are now working through Luther's Catechism. It has been a great blessing.

REV. ZACHARY PUDLO: Josh came to us in 2017 looking for a place for his church to worship. From the moment we met, our goal was



to make sure we agree on God's Word. I think we both have appreciated our time together in the Word of God and growing closer to the Lord and together as fellow servants in his kingdom.

I try to manage my hopes for our partnership with Pastor Baion and Community Deliverance Church. I know he has a better opportunity to reach the growing multiethnic community in Eagan. Maybe the Lord will bless our efforts to share Christ in our immediate community. Or maybe the Lord will bless our efforts as we explore opportunities to bring the gospel back to Sierra Leone. My hopes are to be prepared to go wherever the Lord will lead us.

Being a PSI mentor has been a blessing. The preparation needed to teach courses has given me the opportunity to review the information from my formal time in school. It has been a blessing for my congregation to see Pastor Baion and his members and to get to know their story. The elders and church council have a vested interest in Community Deliverance Church and want to know how they can help this partnership progress. Admittedly, being committed to the PSI program takes time and energy, but it's all worth it. I would never have imagined this going as smoothly as it has, but the Lord has paved a way for us. I can't wait to see how he will bless his kingdom through it.

GROW IN GRACE

PARTNERING WITH PASTORS

Pastors tend to keep a full schedule, so opportunities for growing together with others can be limited. That's why Grow in Grace, in addition to our courses and retreats and mentoring that help pastors learn from one another, also offers pastors a variety of tools pastors can use individually to grow spiritually and professionally in the midst of their busy lives. Here are two popular tools.

SHEPHERDS STUDY: The Shepherds Study is a bi-monthly book review written by pastors for pastors. The book reviews are designed to expand on the ideas and resources for pastors by providing simple summaries of books in each of the four theological disciplines. If you are unfamiliar with this great resource, we encourage you to check out the newest review on *The Commentators Bible: Deuteronomy* written by Pastor Souksamay Phetsanghane. Read all book reviews at: wls.wels.net/grow-in-grace/shepherds-study.

FOUR BRANCHES REVIEW: As one of the newer resources, the Four Branches Review is quickly becoming one of our most popular. This monthly publication is sent to pastors via e-mail to encourage personal continuing education for pastors with small "starting points" in each of the four traditional branches of theology. If you would like to receive this monthly review, please contact us at growingrace@wls.wels.net.

